GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2680
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2017
Illegal Cultivation on Forest Land
Ramachandran Shri Krishnan Narayanasamy

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the illegal cultivation due to encroachment on forest lands in the country and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding illegal cultivation on forest lands;
(c) if so, the details of such complaints during each of the last three years, Statewise; and
(d) the steps taken by the Government to check this trend in the country?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a)to (c) Management and protection of forest area is primarily the responsibility of concerned State/UT Governments and action is taken to prevent /remove encroachment as per the existing rules and regulations by respective State/UT Governments. As per the reports received from States/UTs, the details of the forest area under encroachment are given in Annexure. No specific information/complaint regarding illegal cultivation due to encroachment on huge tracts of forest land has been received in the Ministry. However, some States/UTs have reported that the encroached areas in the forests are also being used for cultivation.

(d) Action is taken by the concerned State/UT Governments to prevent/ evict encroachments as per the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wild Life Protection Act, 1972, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and the Acts and Rules of various State/UT Governments. This Ministry provides financial assistance to State/UT Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes including the 'Intensification of Forest Management Scheme' (IFMS), for activities like strengthening of infrastructure viz. check posts, buildings for frontline staff, use of modern technology that includes wireless network, Remote Sensing, Geographical Information System, Information Technology, Global Positioning System (GPS) and improved mobility to the field staff by providing vehicles for patrolling, survey and demarcation of forest areas including digitization of recorded forest areas and construction of boundary pillars etc.

In addition to above, the State/UT Governments take various steps for protection of the forest areas which include patrolling of forest areas, strengthening of the check posts/barriers, use of modern information technology for control of forest offences, demarcation of forest areas and digitization of the recorded forest areas, involvement of local Communities/ Joint Forest Management Committees in preventing encroachment on forest land.

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